

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 9:05 last night, a member of the “San Paolo” group of our Divine Providence community (Via Antonino Pio), Rome, was called to dwell eternally with God the Father:

BRUNO ESTER – SR. MARIA DOLORES
born in Aquila, Italy, on 16 June 1926.

This dear sister’s Pauline life, carried out almost entirely in Rome, the center of Christianity and of our Congregation, was simple and filled with good works. At the age of 21, after obtaining a diploma in the field of business while still with her family, she entered our Divine Providence House in Rome on 20 Feb. 1947. She made her initial formation and then her novitiate in that community, concluding this stage of her formation with her first vows on 19 March 1950. After a few months in Livorno, she returned to our big Roman House, which was undergoing rapid growth on the formative, apostolic and cultural levels. For more than two decades, Sr. Dolores worked in the typography, particularly at the linotype machine, which she operated with great expertise. With solicitude and love, she helped to print the many series of books that were issuing at rapid speed from the printing sector and that were eagerly awaited by our sisters.

Afterward, Sr. Dolores collaborated for about 9 years with our *Ut Unum Sint* Center. In 1981, she began the important “phone and door” service that was to characterize her apostolic life from that time on, first in the Castro Pretorio community (Rome) and then, from 1986 onward, in our Divine Providence community in the same city, where she truly became the “guardian” and sentinel of our large Via Antonino Pio complex. Sr. Dolores spent most of her religious life in the shadow of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, organizing her days to the rhythm of the Shrine’s bells. The countless FSPs who lived in that FSP compound over the years all remember her wide smile and readiness to serve everyone, as well as her tact, kindness, warmth, hospitality and interest in every person and situation.

When Sr. Dolores celebrated her 82nd birthday, she wrote to the Superior General: “I have reached this stage of my life without major health problems. But the Lord has not spared me in this respect because I have recently been diagnosed with arthrosis. Although it is not severe yet, it gives me no rest because the pain is sharp and nagging. I believe suffering is essential for closing one’s earthly existence in a spiritually beautiful way, and I hope this will prove true of me. I am aware that physical suffering has been lacking in my life and that it is a very important element for human and spiritual growth. So I welcome the cross I have been asked to carry because it is helping me to realize more deeply that many people have to bear much heavier and more painful crosses in their lives. I am asking Jesus Master to give me deeper spiritual clarity in this regard, and I am asking Mary, the Virgin of the Incarnation, to awaken in me a yearning to treasure and relish the things of God more and more...”

She concludes with the words: “I am very happy to be a Daughter of St. Paul and I have to confess that I have come to know Jesus more through my many failures, shortcomings and limitations than through my joys. But as St. Paul says, ‘All things work out well for those who love God...’ Everything I experience is helpful if it brings me closer to the Lord who suffered, died and rose for me.”

When she made her spiritual exercises during the Congregation’s Centennial year, Sr. M. Dolores said that she yearned “to grasp the depth and brightness of Christ’s gaze upon me in everything I say and do in my daily life” and that she wanted “to maintain a lofty and fruitful contemplation of the Trinity through a special attraction to Christ imbued with the Eucharist and the Word...” She also felt the need to cultivate greater silence in her life “so as to rediscover the spiritual resources of the Pauline charism, contemplate afresh Jesus of Nazareth, and carve into my heart his features and his way of relating to people.”

In her final years, Sr. Dolores suffered from no specific illnesses other than a progressive and general physical decline because of which, about a year ago, she was transferred to the Albano community to receive the assistance and accompaniment she required. Today her place at the bridal banquet in heaven was ready and she serenely responded to the Master’s call to spend eternity with him.

Affectionately,


sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 13 May 2022